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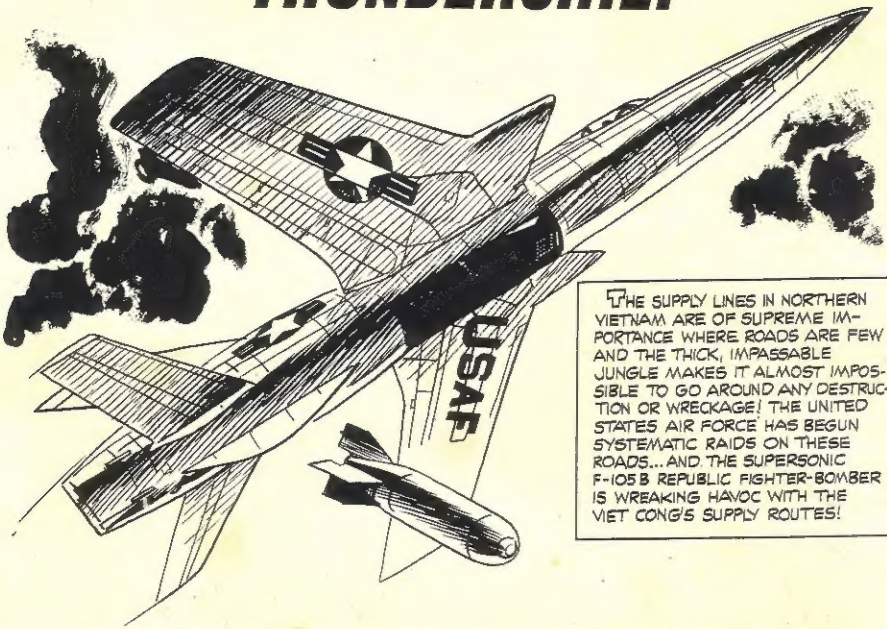
FEBRUARY

AIR WAR STORIES

KAMIKAZE!

"THE DIVINE WIND" OF DESPERATION IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE WAR!

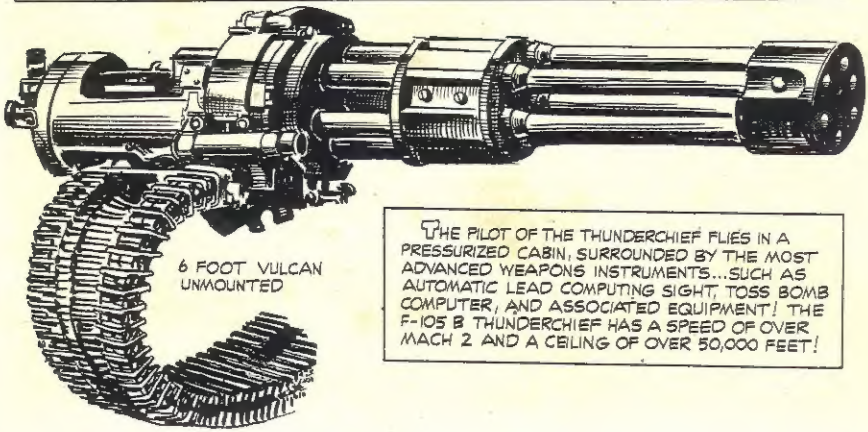
THUNDERCHIEF



THE SUPPLY LINES IN NORTHERN VIETNAM ARE OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE WHERE ROADS ARE FEW AND THE THICK, IMPASSABLE JUNGLE MAKES IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GO AROUND ANY DESTRUCTION OR WRECKAGE! THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HAS BEGUN SYSTEMATIC RAIDS ON THESE ROADS... AND THE SUPERSONIC F-105 B REPUBLIC FIGHTER-BOMBER IS WREAKING HAVOC WITH THE VIET CONG'S SUPPLY ROUTES!

THESE REPUBLIC FIGHTER-BOMBERS ARE REFERRED TO AS "WEAPONS SYSTEMS" BECAUSE SO MANY TYPES OF BOMBS, GUNS AND ROCKETS CAN BE INCORPORATED TO FIT ANY PARTICULAR MISSION! A NUCLEAR WEAPON MAY BE CARRIED INTERNALLY IN THE BOMB BAY...

A GENERAL ELECTRIC VULCAN "GATLING GUN" 20 MM AUTOMATIC MULTI-BARREL CANNON IS CAPABLE OF FIRING **6,000 SHELLS PER MINUTE!** NAPALM BOMBS CAN BE CARRIED EXTERNALLY ALONG WITH OTHER HIGH EXPLOSIVE BOMBS!



6 FOOT VULCAN UNMOUNTED

THE PILOT OF THE THUNDERCHIEF FLIES IN A PRESSURIZED CABIN, SURROUNDED BY THE MOST ADVANCED WEAPONS INSTRUMENTS... SUCH AS AUTOMATIC LEAD COMPUTING SIGHT, TOSS BOMB COMPUTER, AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT! THE F-105 B THUNDERCHIEF HAS A SPEED OF OVER MACH 2 AND A CEILING OF OVER 50,000 FEET!

AIR WAR STORIES

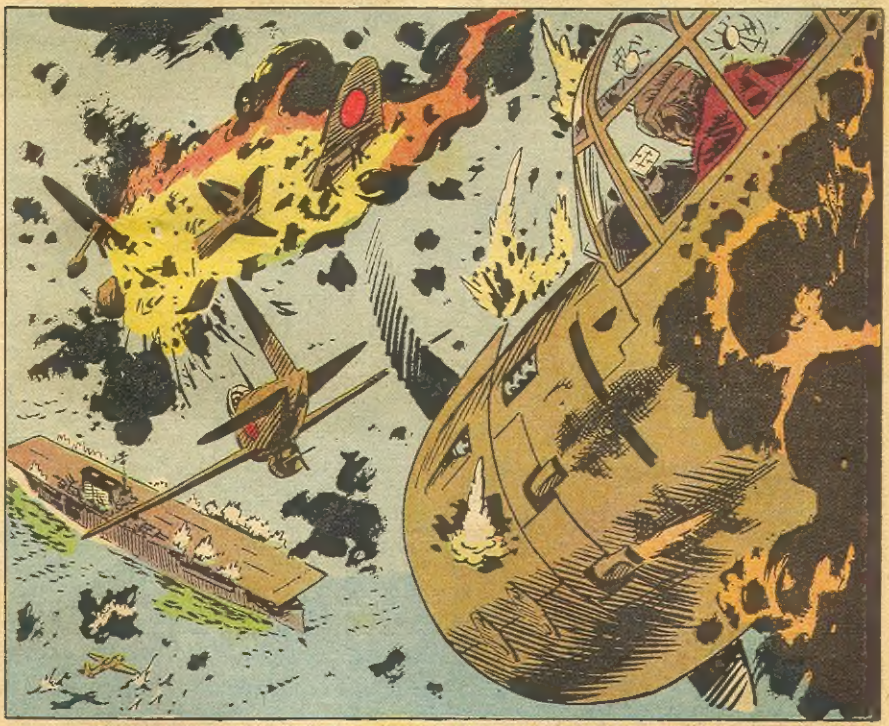
The Glorious Day of Doom

BY LATE 1944, EVEN THE MOST FANATICAL JAPANESE MILITARISTS HAD TO FACE FACTS...JAPAN WAS SURELY GOING TO BE DESTROYED UNLESS SOMETHING MIRACULOUS HAPPENED!

ONCE BEFORE, IN 1281, THE GREAT MONGOLIAN WARLORD, KUBLAI KHAN, HAD GATHERED A POWERFUL ARMADA AND DEFEAT HAD BEEN CERTAIN...UNTIL A GREAT TYPHOON HAD SPRUNG UP TO DESTROY THE MONGOLIAN FLEET!

THE JAPANESE PEOPLE HAD PRAYED FOR A MIRACLE...AND WHEN THE GREAT WIND CAME, THEY CALLED IT "THE DIVINE WIND"...OR IN JAPANESE...KAMIKAZE!

NOW...DEFEAT WAS CERTAIN...AND ANOTHER MIRACLE WAS NEEDED! ANOTHER "DIVINE WIND"!



IN 1944, JAPAN'S AIRCRAFT SUFFERED TERRIBLE LOSSES! THE NEW AMERICAN FIGHTERS, ESPECIALLY THE F4U CORSAIRS, WERE INFLICTING TREMENDOUS DAMAGE ON THE JAPANESE...

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ONE YOUNG PILOT, RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM THE HIRO AIR FORCE BASE, YOSHURI ASHNISHI, NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH MANY TIMES THAT DAY...

I'VE GOT THIS ZERO TURNING INTO MY CONE OF FIRE, BOYS! LOOK OVER MY WAY SO YOU CAN CONFIRM THIS ONE!

WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT? MY FIRING CIRCUIT JUST GOT A GREMLIN* IN IT...THAT LUCKY JAP'S GONNA GET AWAY FROM ME!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: A MYTHICAL IMP BLAMED BY WORLD WAR TWO PILOTS FOR ANY TROUBLE ENCOUNTERED ON A MISSION.

FLIGHT WARRANT OFFICER YOSHURI ASHNISHI KNEW HOW CLOSE IT HAD BEEN! HE THOUGHT HIS TIME HAD COME TO JOIN HIS ANCESTORS...

WE FOUR ARE ALL THAT ARE LEFT OF THE 16 PLANES OF THE 201ST AIR GROUP OF MABALACAT! OUR COMRADES ALL DIED BRAVELY!

THEY DIED USELESSLY! WE DID NOT DROP A BOMB ON THE ENEMY SHIPS WHICH WERE OUR OBJECTIVES WHEN WE TOOK OFF THIS MORNING!

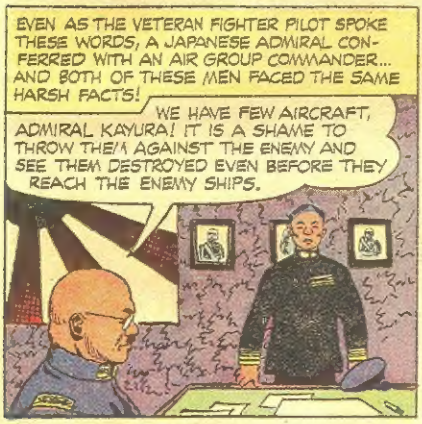
FLIGHT WARRANT OFFICER, ASHNISHI, YOUNG AND WITH DREAMS OF GLORY FOR HIMSELF AND JAPAN, SOUGHT ENCOURAGEMENT AND ADVICE FROM CAPTAIN TOSHI KOMPEI, A VETERAN OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOUR IN DEC. 1941!

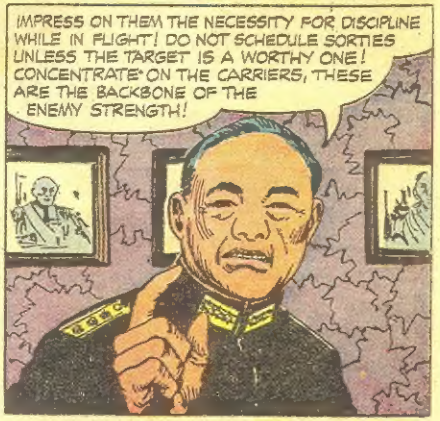
TELL ME, CAPTAIN, WILL I ACQUIRE SKILL AND BE A MATCH FOR THE AMERICAN PILOTS WHEN I AM AS EXPERIENCED AS YOU?

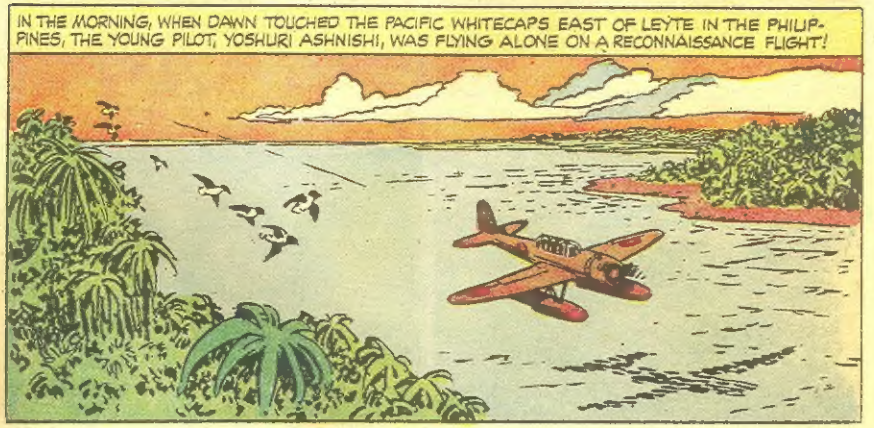
THEIR ENGINES ARE POWERFUL, THEIR PILOTS SIT IN ARMORED COCKPITS AND THEIR WING TANKS ARE BULLETPROOF! EXPERIENCE WILL NOT OVERCOME THESE FACTORS!

WHEN OUR BOMBS SANK THE AMERICAN SHIPS AT PEARL HARBOR, THE AMERICANS HAD FEW PLANES AND WE DISPOSED OF THEM EASILY! I THOUGHT THE WAR WOULD SURELY END IN A FEW WEEKS...

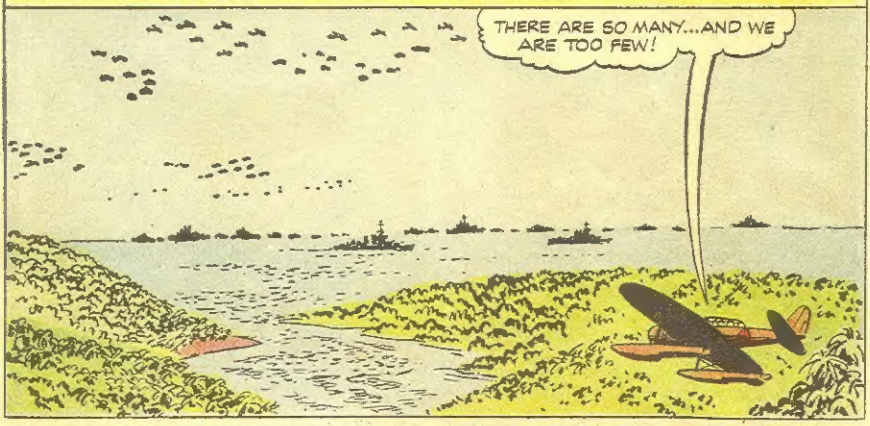
EACH DAY, THE AMERICANS HAVE MORE AIRCRAFT THAN THEY DID THE DAY BEFORE...AND NO MATTER HOW MANY WE DESTROY, THEY WILL HAVE EVEN MORE TOMORROW! YOSHURI, MY HEART IS SAD FOR DESPITE THE LIES OUR LEADERS TELL US, I SEE ONLY SHAMEFUL DEFEAT FOR NIPPON!

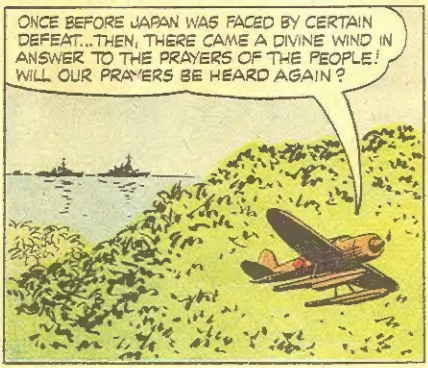

EVEN AS THE VETERAN FIGHTER PILOT SPOKE THESE WORDS, A JAPANESE ADMIRAL CONFERRED WITH AN AIR GROUP COMMANDER... AND BOTH OF THESE MEN FACED THE SAME HARSH FACTS!
WE HAVE FEW AIRCRAFT, ADMIRAL KAYURA! IT IS A SHAME TO THROW THEM AGAINST THE ENEMY AND SEE THEM DESTROYED EVEN BEFORE THEY REACH THE ENEMY SHIPS.


IMPRESS ON THEM THE NECESSITY FOR DISCIPLINE WHILE IN FLIGHT! DO NOT SCHEDULE SORTIES UNLESS THE TARGET IS A WORTHY ONE! CONCENTRATE ON THE CARRIERS, THESE ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE ENEMY STRENGTH!

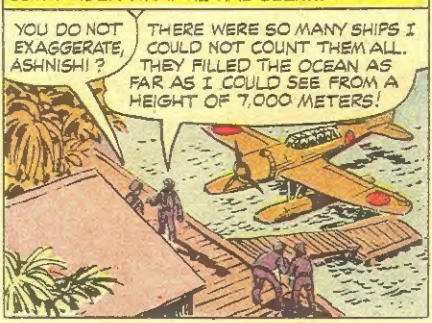

IN THE MORNING, WHEN DAWN TOUCHED THE PACIFIC WHITECAPS EAST OF LEYTE IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE YOUNG PILOT, YOSHURI ASHNISHI, WAS FLYING ALONE ON A RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT!

HE WAS THE FIRST TO SEE THIS NEWEST MENACE TO THE JAPANESE EMPIRE...AND THE BOY COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EYES AT FIRST! GENERAL KREUGER'S SIXTH ARMY BACKED UP BY THE MIGHTY AND MASSIVE THIRD AND SEVENTH FLEET FILLED THE HORIZON...




ONCE BEFORE JAPAN WAS FACED BY CERTAIN DEFEAT...THEN, THERE CAME A DIVINE WIND IN ANSWER TO THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE! WILL OUR PRAYERS BE HEARD AGAIN?

AT MABALACAT, YOSHURI REPORTED TO THE COMMANDER WHAT HE HAD SEEN...


YOU DO NOT EXAGGERATE, ASHNISHI?
THERE WERE SO MANY SHIPS I COULD NOT COUNT THEM ALL. THEY FILLED THE OCEAN AS FAR AS I COULD SEE FROM A HEIGHT OF 7,000 METERS!

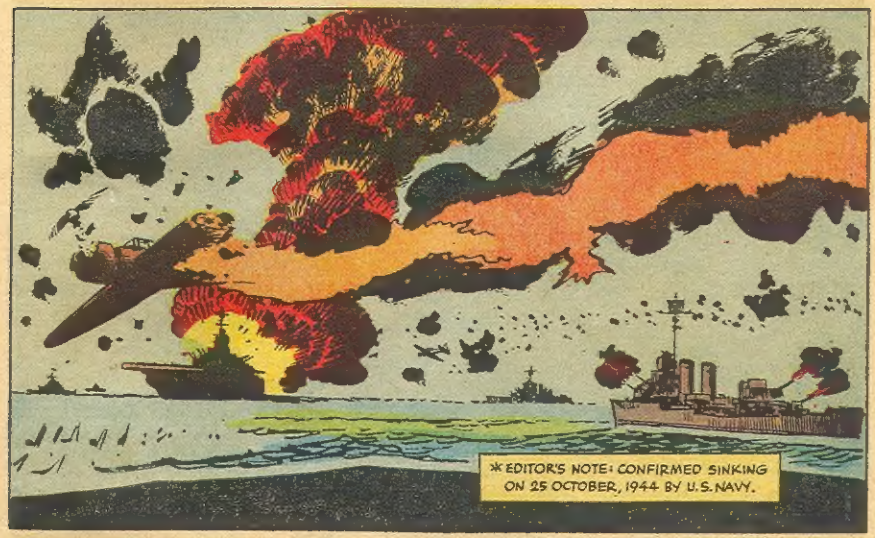
THE ADMIRALS CONFERRED AGAIN! ADMIRAL OSHNISHI HAD BEEN PONDERING A DRASTIC STEP AND AT LAST HE GAVE ORDERS...

NO LONGER CAN WE HOPE TO SINK THE NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR ENEMY AIRCRAFT CARRIERS THROUGH ORDINARY ATTACK METHODS. HENCEFORTH, WE WILL EMPLOY CRASH-DIVE TACTICS AGAINST THE ENEMY AND I WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATE ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL ATTACK FORCES!

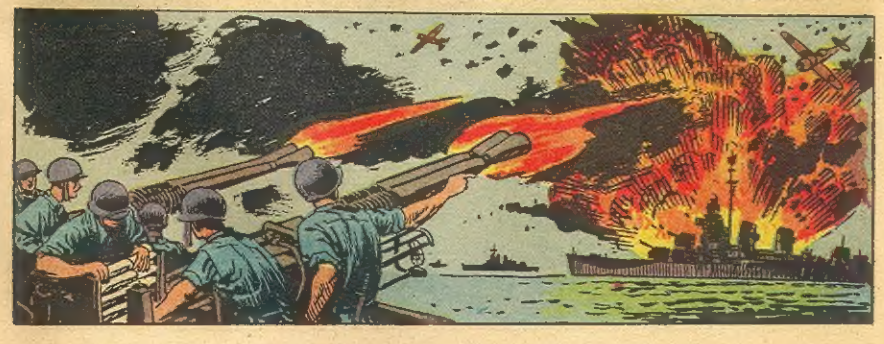
YOU, THE SAMURAI WARRIORS OF JAPAN TODAY, WILL BE THE NEW KAMIKAZE... JUST AS THE DIVINE WIND SWEPT OUR ENEMIES FROM THE SEAS IN ANCIENT TIMES SO NOW YOU WILL BE THE KAMIKAZE SWEEPING THE AMERICANS FROM THE SEAS!

THE NEW SPECIAL ATTACK GROUP WAS CALLED **TOKKOTAI**....
ON 25 OCTOBER, 1944, FIVE BOMB-LADEN **KAMIKAZE** AIRCRAFT STRUCK AT AN AMERICAN TASK FORCE...

TWO ZEROS STRUCK THE CARRIER AND IT SANK ALMOST IMMEDIATELY...*



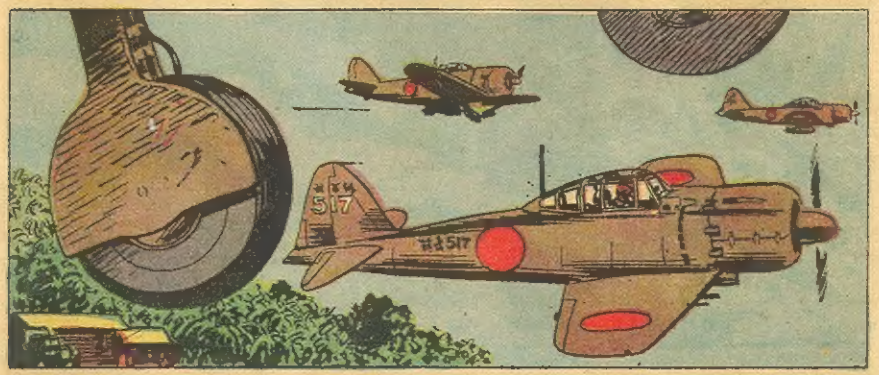
THE KAMIKAZE STRUCK HARD THAT DAY. ALL FIVE OF THE SUICIDE PLANES FOUND A TARGET...



THE PILOTS IN **TOKKOTAI** SOUGHT OUT THEIR COMMANDERS, VOLUNTEERING FOR THE NEXT ATTACK...YOSHURI ASHNISHI WAS FINALLY CHOSEN IN NOVEMBER FOR THE HONOR AS A SPECIAL ATTACK!

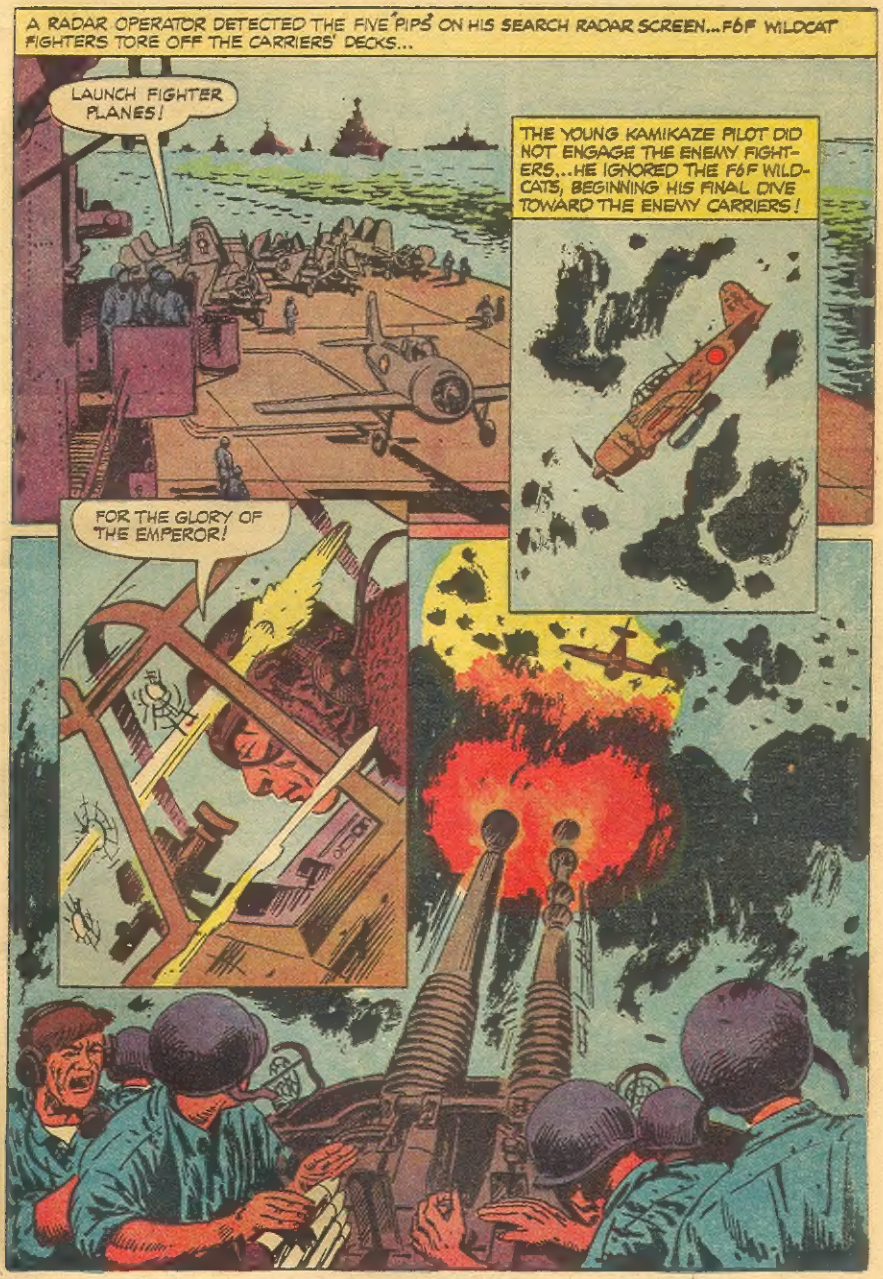
THEY SING THE ANCIENT WARRIOR'S SONG FOR ME...IT IS A GREAT HONOR!

IF I GO AWAY TO SEA,
I SHALL RETURN A CORPSE AWASH;
IF DUTY CALLS ME TO THE MOUNTAIN,
A VERDANT SWARD WILL BE MY PALL:
THUS FOR THE SAKE OF THE EMPEROR
I WILL NOT DIE PEACEFULLY AT HOME.

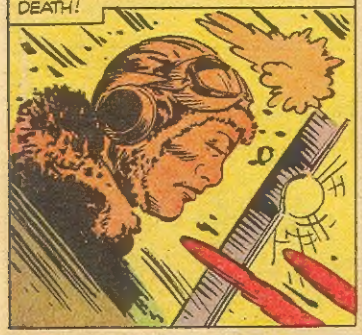


THE KAMIKAZE ZEROS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO ESCORT FIGHTERS STREAKED TOWARD AN ENEMY CARRIER FORCE HEADED NORTH TOWARD LINGAYEN GULF EAST OF LUBANG ISLAND...YOSHURI ASHNISHI WAS AT LAST ABOUT TO ACHIEVE HIS AMBITION!

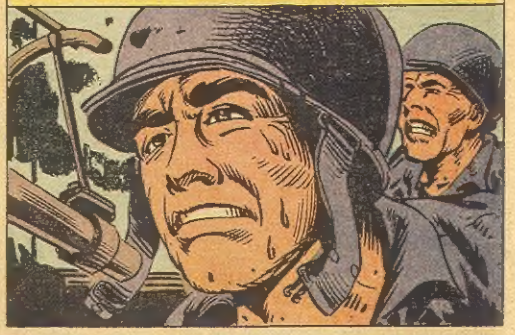
I MUST REMEMBER MY TRAINING. I MUST HAVE COURAGE AND AIM MY SHIP CAREFULLY AT THE CARRIER DECK!


A RADAR OPERATOR DETECTED THE FIVE 'PIPS' ON HIS SEARCH RADAR SCREEN...F6F WILDCAT FIGHTERS TORE OFF THE CARRIERS' DECKS...
LAUNCH FIGHTER PLANES!
THE YOUNG KAMIKAZE PILOT DID NOT ENGAGE THE ENEMY FIGHTERS...HE IGNORED THE F6F WILDCATS, BEGINNING HIS FINAL DIVE TOWARD THE ENEMY CARRIERS!
FOR THE GLORY OF THE EMPEROR!

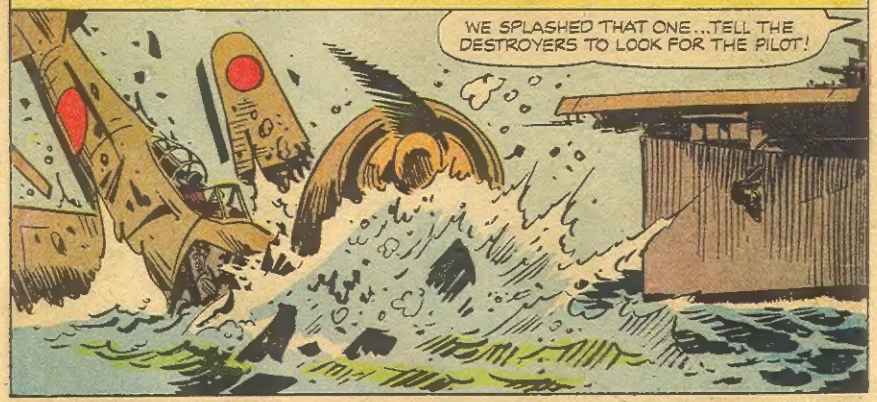
THIS WAS FULLFILLMENT OF A SAMURAI'S DREAM. NO LONGER AFRAID, EXULTED, YOSHURI ASHNISHI HURTLED TOWARD DEATH!

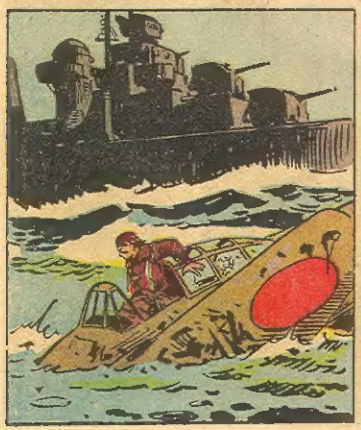


EQUALLY CERTAIN OF DEATH, THE YOUNG AMERICAN GUNNERS REMAINED AT THE 40 MM GUN POURING SHELLS INTO THE KAMIKAZE PLANE...

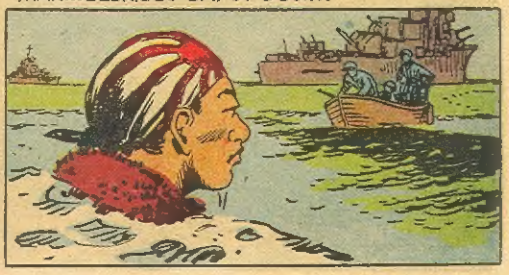


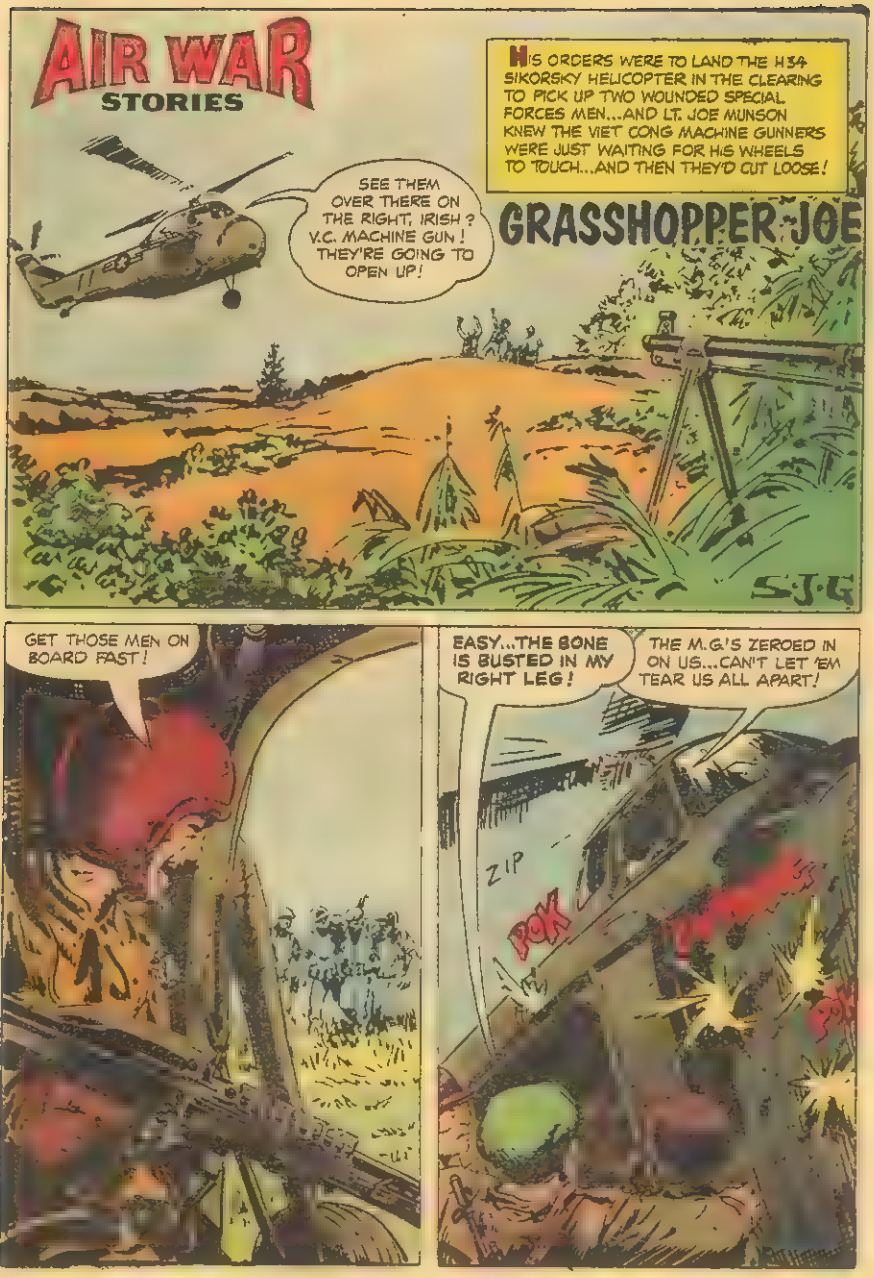
AT THE LAST MINUTE... A CONTROL CABLE WAS SHEARED BY A SHELL...

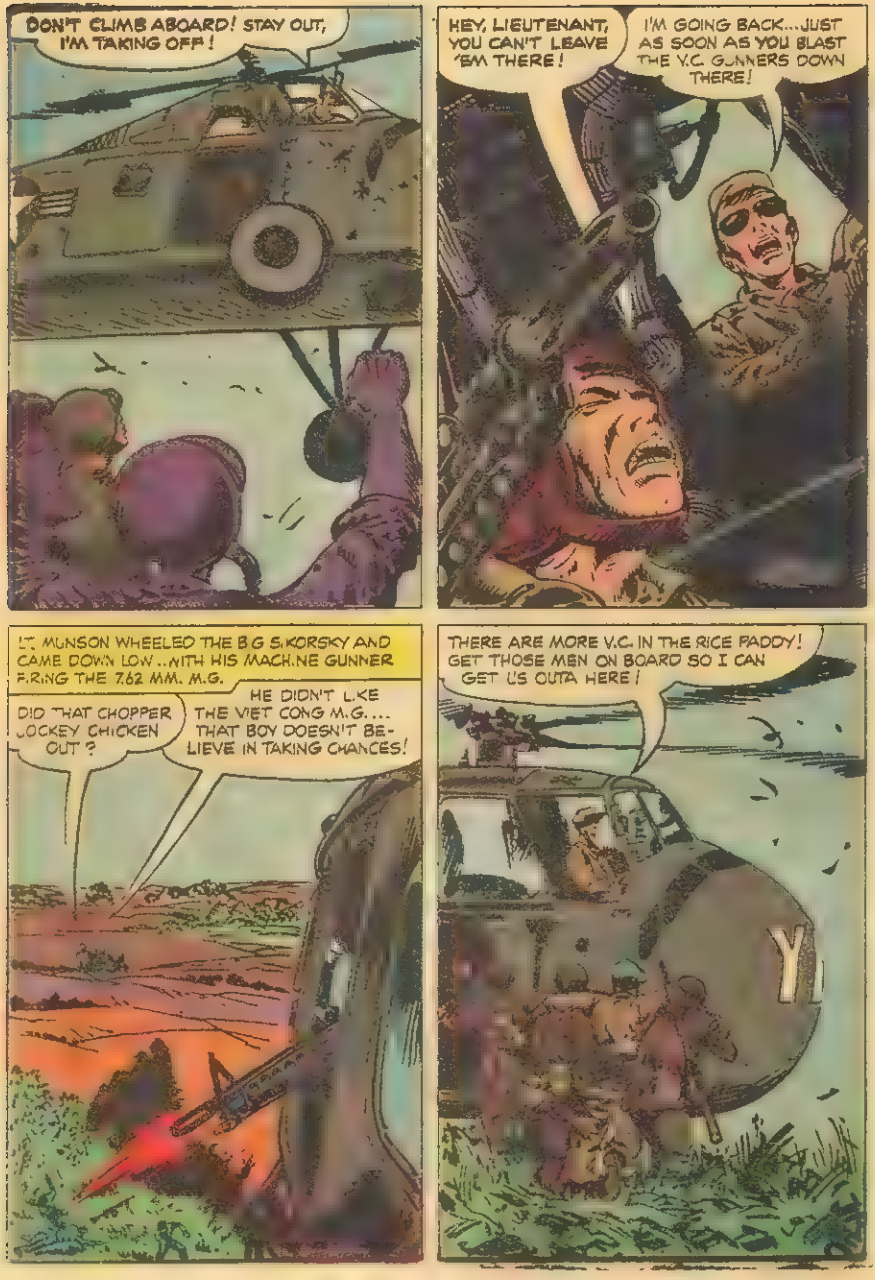




HE HAD FAILED, THIS WAS ALL HE KNEW... FAILED HIS EMPEROR, FAILED TO GIVE HIS LIFE IN ORDER TO DESTROY HIS ENEMY! HE DID NOT KNOW THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD GIVE THANKS FOR HIS FAILURE... WHEN THE WAR HAD ENDED AND THE LAST BITTERNESS WAS GONE, HE WOULD BE QUIETLY GRATEFUL THAT HIS OWN LIFE AND THOSE OF HIS ENEMIES HAD NOT ENDED ON THAT.... **GLORIOUS DAY OF DOOM!**

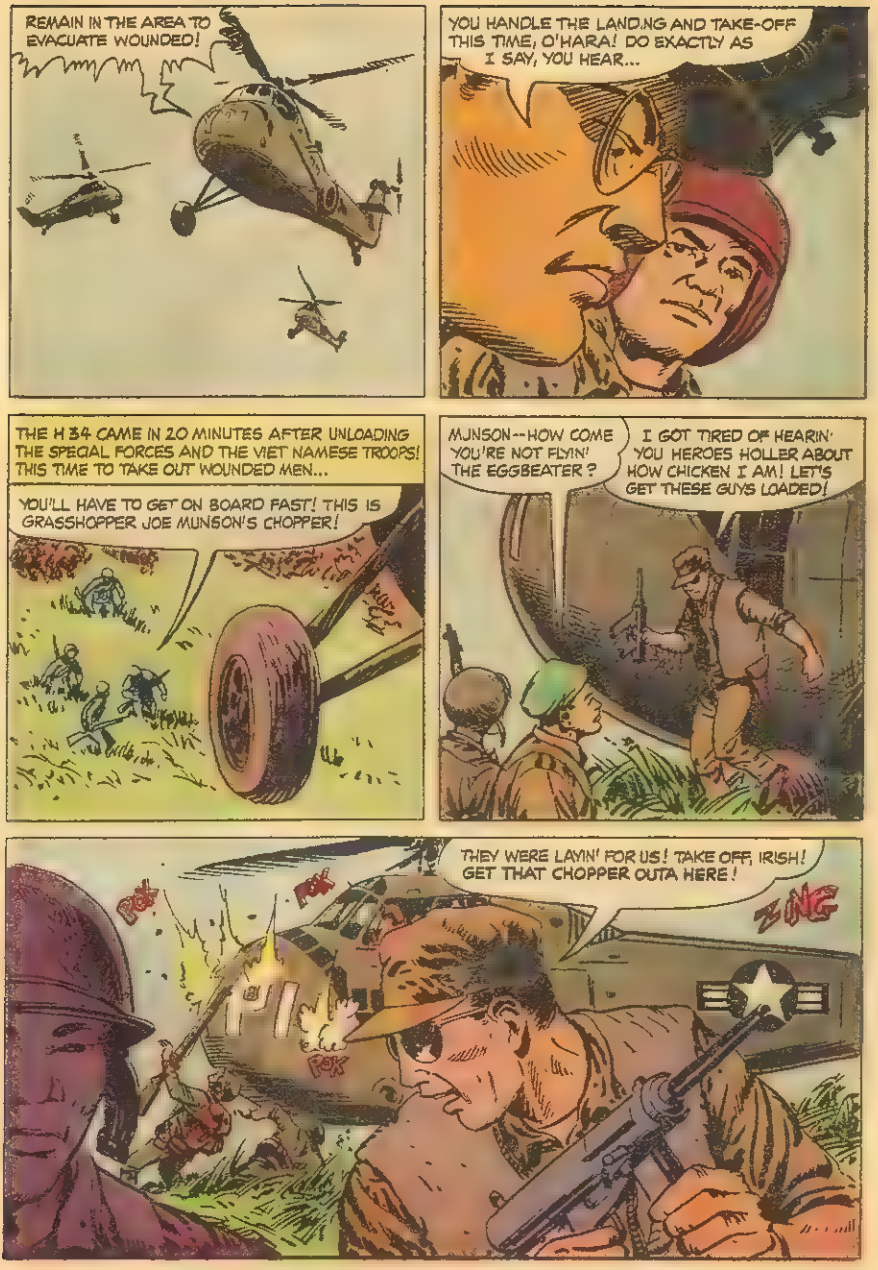



AIR WAR STORIES
HIS ORDERS WERE TO LAND THE H34 SIKORSKY HELICOPTER IN THE CLEARING TO PICK UP TWO WOUNDED SPECIAL FORCES MEN...AND LT. JOE MUNSON KNEW THE VIET CONG MACHINE GUNNERS WERE JUST WAITING FOR HIS WHEELS TO TOUCH...AND THEN THEY'D CUT LOOSE!
SEE THEM OVER THERE ON THE RIGHT, IRISH? V.C. MACHINE GUN! THEY'RE GOING TO OPEN UP!
GRASSHOPPER JOE
S.J.G
GET THOSE MEN ON BOARD FAST!
EASY...THE BONE IS BUSTED IN MY RIGHT LEG!
THE M.G.'S ZEROED IN ON US...CAN'T LET 'EM TEAR US ALL APART!
ZIP
POK
POK

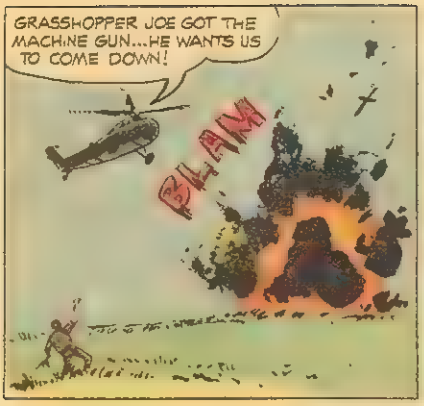

DON'T CLIMB ABOARD! STAY OUT, I'M TAKING OFF!
HEY, LIEUTENANT, YOU CAN'T LEAVE 'EM THERE!
I'M GOING BACK...JUST AS SOON AS YOU BLAST THE V.C. GUNNERS DOWN THERE!
LT. MUNSON WHEELED THE B G S.KORSKY AND CAME DOWN LOW..WITH HIS MACH.NE GUNNER F.RING THE 7.62 MM. M.G.
DID THAT CHOPPER JOCKEY CHICKEN OUT?
HE DIDN'T L.KE THE VIET CONG M.G.... THAT BOY DOESN'T BE-LIEVE IN TAKING CHANCES!
THERE ARE MORE V.C. IN THE RICE PADDY! GET THOSE MEN ON BOARD SO I CAN GET US OUTA HERE!

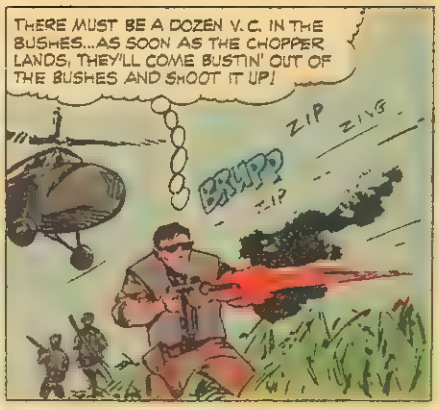
LIFTING THE #34 HIGH, JOE MUNSON TOOK NO MORE CHANCES THAN HE HAD TO.
HE ALWAYS PLAYS IT SAFE.
OLD GRASSHOPPER JOE? HE CAN LAND IN A RICE PADDY
...AND NOT GET THE WHEELS WET! HE'S A FAST MAN WITH THE THROTTLE WHEN THE V.C. ARE AROUND!
BACK AT SAIGON, THEY HEARD THE STORIES ABOUT GRASS-HOPPER JOE MUNSON. NOBODY SAID HE LEFT ANYONE IN TROUBLE. BUT SPECIAL FORCES MEN SERVING ON RAIDS WITH THE VIETNAMESE WERE NERVOUS ABOUT CHOPPER JOCKEYS WHO DIDN'T LIKE GETTING SHOT AT.
GRASS-HOPPER JOE MUNSON'S OUR PILOT! IF WE GET IN TROUBLE, WE'D BETTER NOT COUNT ON HIM TO GET US OUT!
WHEN WE'RE GOING DOWN TO UNLOAD THE TROOPS, KEEP AN EYE PEELED FOR THE VIET CONG!
DON'T WORRY LIEUTENANT, I'M JUST AS ANXIOUS TO STAY ALIVE AS YOU ARE!
ANXIOUS TO STAY ALIVE...THAT'S WHAT IRISH THINKS ABOUT ME! I HEARD ONE SPECIAL FORCES CAPTAIN IN THE SERVICE CLUB CALL ME GRASSHOPPER JOE! MAYBE I AM CHICKEN AND DON'T KNOW IT MYSELF!

YOU'VE HEARD WHAT THEY CALL ME --- GRASSHOPPER JOE? WHY'D THEY HANG THAT ON ME?
A COUPLE TIMES YOU PLAYED IT SAFE...THEY THOUGHT YOU WERE A LITTLE OVERCAUTIOUS. LAST WEEK YOU CAME IN TO PICK UP A COUPLE MEN AND YOU WENT AROUND TWICE, CHECKIN' THE LANDING AREA!
ONE OF THEM GOT KILLED WHILE YOU CIRCLED, JOE! THAT'S NOT YOUR FAULT... BUT RIGHT NOW, THEY THINK IT WAS!
I KNOW I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG... I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING STUPID TO PROVE I'M NOT CHICKEN!
THERE GOES GRASSHOPPER JOE!

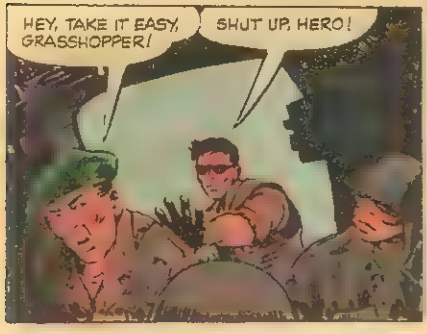

REMAIN IN THE AREA TO EVACUATE WOUNDED!
YOU HANDLE THE LANDING AND TAKE-OFF THIS TIME, O'HARA! DO EXACTLY AS I SAY, YOU HEAR...
THE H 34 CAME IN 20 MINUTES AFTER UNLOADING THE SPECIAL FORCES AND THE VIET NAMESE TROOPS! THIS TIME TO TAKE OUT WOUNDED MEN...
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET ON BOARD FAST! THIS IS GRASSHOPPER JOE MUNSON'S CHOPPER!
MUNSON--HOW COME YOU'RE NOT FLYIN' THE EGGBEATER?
I GOT TIRED OF HEARIN' YOU HEROES HOLLER ABOUT HOW CHICKEN I AM! LET'S GET THESE GUYS LOADED!
THEY WERE LAYIN' FOR US! TAKE OFF, IRISH! GET THAT CHOPPER OUTA HERE!
POK
POK
POK
ZING

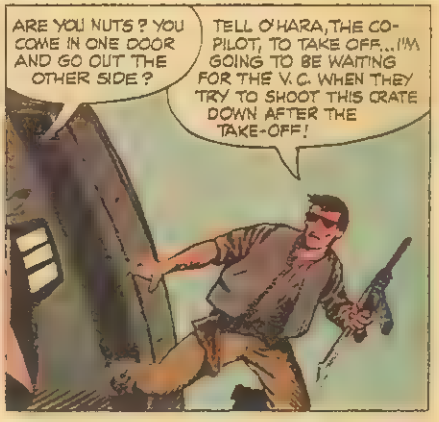
ARE YOU NUTS? NOW WE'LL ALL GET CLOBBERED!
WANT MY GUNNER, RADIOMAN, AND CO-PILOT TO GET KILLED TOO? WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT V.C. MACHINE GUN BEFORE I LET O'HARA LAND AGAIN!
BRUPP
WHO'S GONNA GET THE GUN? I CAN'T...THE VIETNAMESE ARE HURT!
THAT LEAVES IT UP TO ME!
POW
TAT TAT
BRUPP BRUPP
BRUPP
BRUPP
MUNSON ALWAYS HAD A GRENADE PINNED TO THE WEBBING...AND NOW HE PUT IT TO GOOD USE.

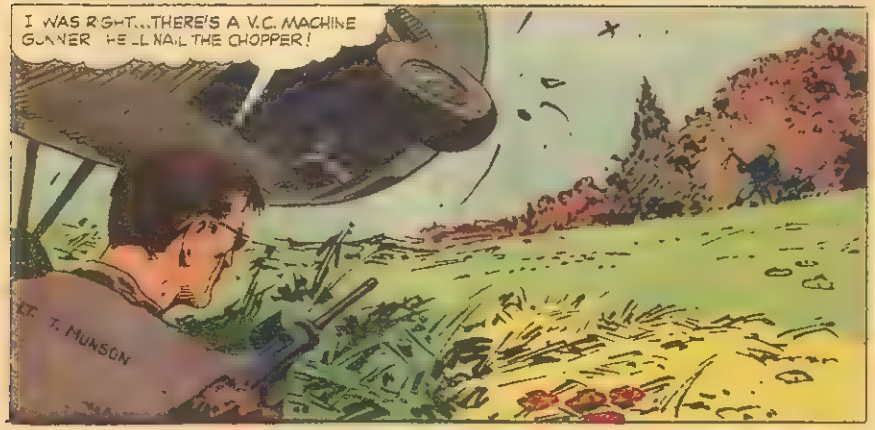



THERE MUST BE A DOZEN V.C. IN THE BUSHES...AS SOON AS THE CHOPPER LANDS, THEY'LL COME BUSTIN' OUT OF THE BUSHES AND SHOOT IT UP!
ZIP
ZING
BRUPP
ZIP

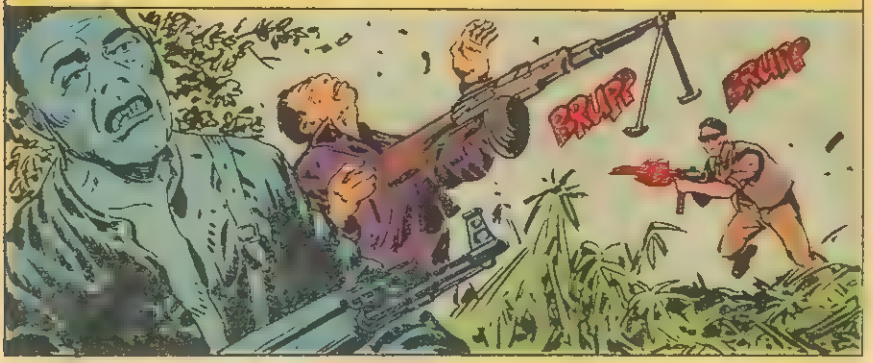
THE SPECIAL FORCES SERGEANT THOUGHT LT. JOE MUNSON WAS CHICKEN LIKE EVERYONE SAID! HE HURRIEDLY GOT THEM ALL INTO THE H 34 AND THEN CLIMBED IN QUICKLY...




ARE YOU NUTS? YOU COME IN ONE DOOR AND GO OUT THE OTHER SIDE?
TELL O'HARA, THE CO-PILOT, TO TAKE OFF...I'M GOING TO BE WAITING FOR THE V.C. WHEN THEY TRY TO SHOOT THIS CRATE DOWN AFTER THE TAKE-OFF!

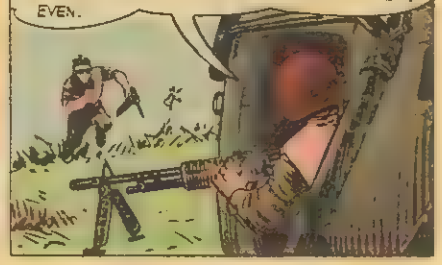


GRASSHOPPER JOE MUNSON TIMED IT PERFECTLY! AS THE VET CONG GUER...LAS CAME OUT OF HIDING WITH BLAZING GUNS...HE FIRED SHORT BURSTS THAT GOT ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THEM!



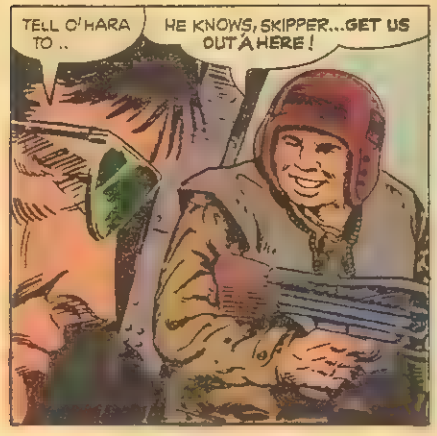
THEN...TAKING HIS TIME, WAVING THE H 34 BACK DOWN, LT. JOE "GRASSHOPPER" MUNSON FELT PRETTY GOOD ABOUT THE WHOLE THING!

FIRST WISE GUY BACK IN SAIGON WHO BAD-MOUTHS GRASSHOPPER JOE MUNSON WILL GET CLOBBERED BY ME BUT GOOD! HE'S GOT ENOUGH MOXIE TO BE IN THE SPECIAL FORCES, EVEN.



TELL O'HARA TO ..

HE KNOWS, SKIPPER...GET US OUT A HERE!



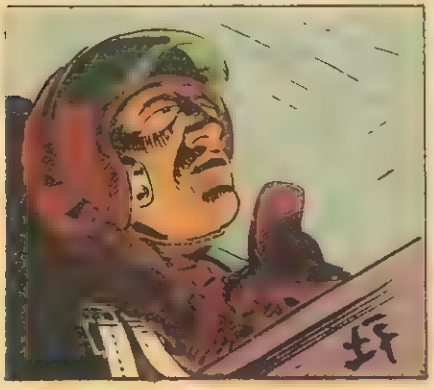
THEY STILL CALLED HIM "GRASSHOPPER JOE" BUT THEY WEREN'T MAKING IT AN INSULT NOW WHEN THEY SAID IT...BECAUSE THE SPECIAL FORCES AND THE VIET-NAMESE WHO FOUGHT THE VIET CONG KNEW HE'D DO A GOOD JOB!

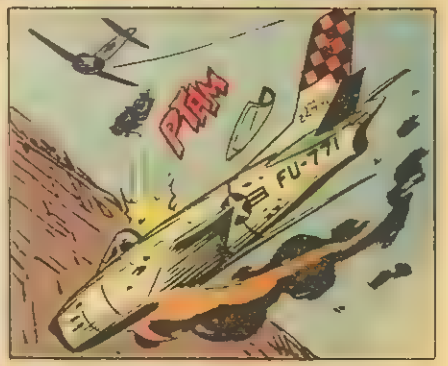
AIR WAR STORIES

TIGER of the YALU

DRAGONFLY LEADER FROM DRAGONFLY THREE! HAVING ENGINE TROUBLE AND AM UNDER ATTACK BY MIG 15! LOOKS LIKE THE ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE TIGER OF THE YALU!

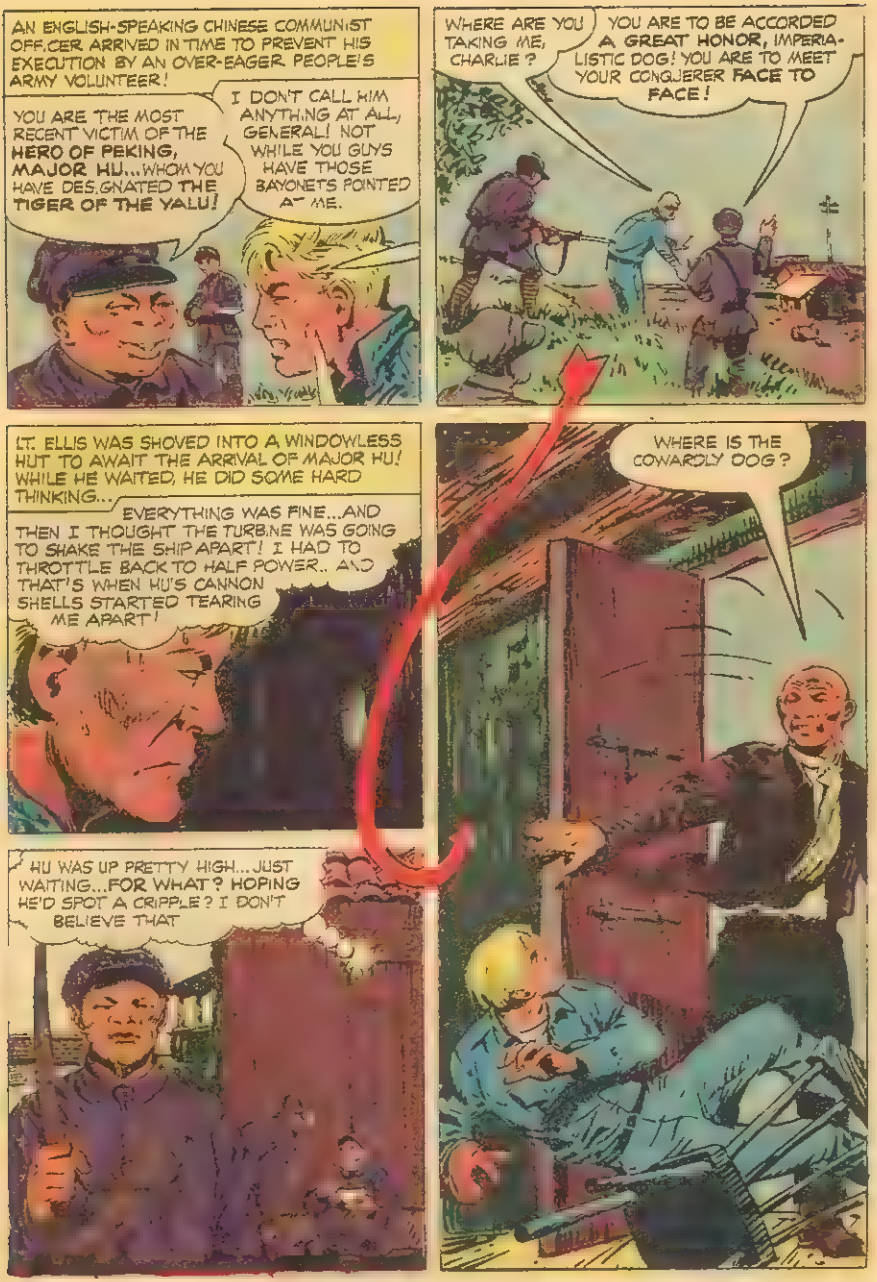
LT. BOB ELLIS, RECENTLY ARRIVED REPLACEMENT IN THE SABRE SQUADRON WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF HIS ATTACKER! HU, A CHINESE COMMUNIST MIG PILOT, WAS IN THE ATTACKING PLANE!

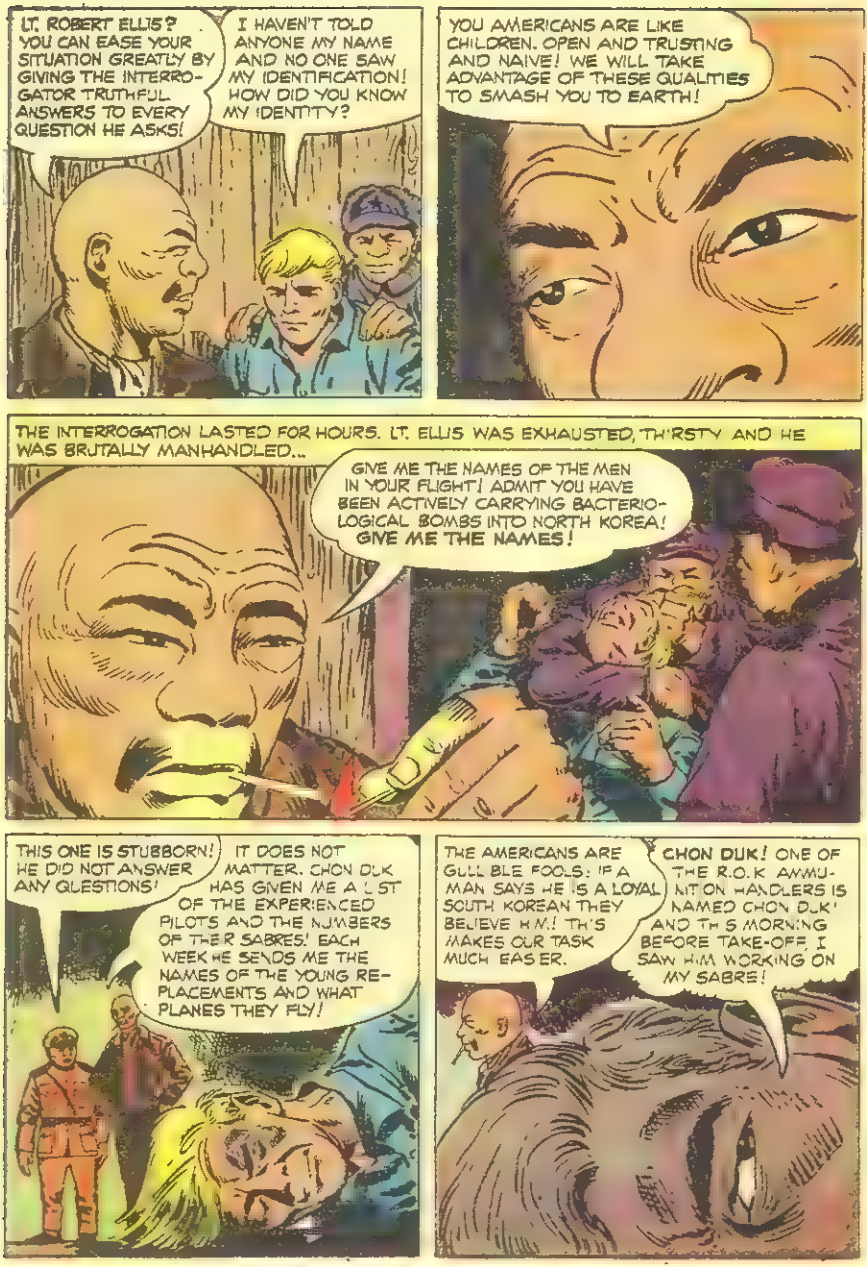




IT WAS NO ACCIDENT THAT HU WAS PRESENT WHEN ELLIS' SABRE ENGINE LOST POWER! HE'D BEEN WAITING AT 45,000 FEET, EXPECTING THAT PARTICULAR PLANE TO LEAVE THE FIGHTER FORMATION JUST WHEN IT DID!

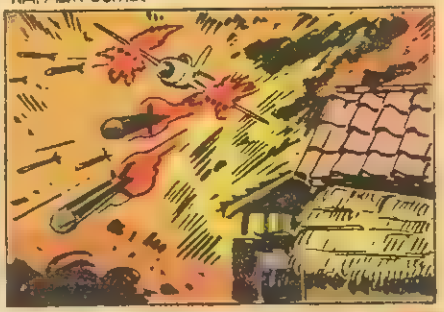
DRAGONFLY LEADER, DRAGONFLY THREE IS PARACHUTING SAFELY IN NORTHERN KOREAN TERRITORY. ONCE AGAIN, THE TIGER OF THE YALU HAS PROVEN HOW INFERIOR THE AMERICAN IMPERIALIST PILOTS ARE!
YALU TIGER FROM DRAGONFLY LEADER DON'T RUN FOR HOME WHY DON'T YOU TANGLE WITH ONE OF US WHO DOESN'T HAVE ENGINE TROUBLE OR A MALFUNCTIONING GUNNERY SYSTEM?
YOU CALL YOURSELF THE TIGER OF THE YALU...YOU'RE THE JACK-RABBIT OF THE YALU THE WAY YOU RUN!
COMING DOWN BEHIND THE COMMIE LINES, LT. BOB ELLIS DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE.
I SURRENDER WHERE ARE YOUR OFFICERS?


AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHINESE COMMUNIST OFFICER ARRIVED IN TIME TO PREVENT HIS EXECUTION BY AN OVER-EAGER PEOPLE'S ARMY VOLUNTEER!
YOU ARE THE MOST RECENT VICTIM OF THE HERO OF PEKING, MAJOR HU...WHOM YOU HAVE DESIGNATED THE TIGER OF THE YALU!
I DON'T CALL HIM ANYTHING AT ALL, GENERAL! NOT WHILE YOU GUYS HAVE THOSE BAYONETS POINTED AT ME.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, CHARLIE?
YOU ARE TO BE ACCORDED A GREAT HONOR, IMPERIALISTIC DOG! YOU ARE TO MEET YOUR CONQUERER FACE TO FACE!
LT. ELLIS WAS SHOVED INTO A WINDOWLESS HUT TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF MAJOR HU! WHILE HE WAITED, HE DID SOME HARD THINKING...
EVERYTHING WAS FINE...AND THEN I THOUGHT THE TURBINE WAS GOING TO SHAKE THE SHIP APART! I HAD TO THROTTLE BACK TO HALF POWER.. AND THAT'S WHEN HU'S CANNON SHELLS STARTED TEARING ME APART!
WHERE IS THE COWARDLY DOG?
HU WAS UP PRETTY HIGH...JUST WAITING...FOR WHAT? HOPING HE'D SPOT A CRIPPLE? I DON'T BELIEVE THAT

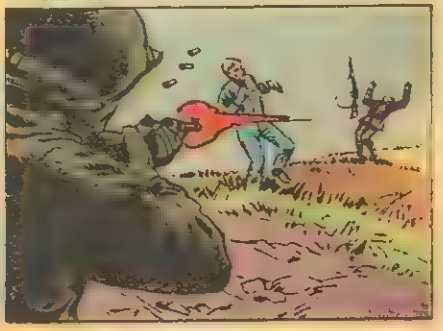

LT. ROBERT ELLIS? YOU CAN EASE YOUR SITUATION GREATLY BY GIVING THE INTERROGATOR TRUTHFUL ANSWERS TO EVERY QUESTION HE ASKS!
I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE MY NAME AND NO ONE SAW MY IDENTIFICATION! HOW DID YOU KNOW MY IDENTITY?
YOU AMERICANS ARE LIKE CHILDREN. OPEN AND TRUSTING AND NAIVE! WE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE QUALITIES TO SMASH YOU TO EARTH!
THE INTERROGATION LASTED FOR HOURS. LT. ELLIS WAS EXHAUSTED, THIRSTY AND HE WAS BRUTALLY MANHANDLED...
GIVE ME THE NAMES OF THE MEN IN YOUR FLIGHT! ADMIT YOU HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CARRYING BACTERIOLOGICAL BOMBS INTO NORTH KOREA! GIVE ME THE NAMES!
THIS ONE IS STUBBORN! HE DID NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS!
IT DOES NOT MATTER. CHON DUK HAS GIVEN ME A LIST OF THE EXPERIENCED PILOTS AND THE NUMBERS OF THEIR SABRES! EACH WEEK HE SENDS ME THE NAMES OF THE YOUNG REPLACEMENTS AND WHAT PLANES THEY FLY!
THE AMERICANS ARE GULLIBLE FOOLS: IF A MAN SAYS HE IS A LOYAL SOUTH KOREAN THEY BELIEVE HIM! THIS MAKES OUR TASK MUCH EASIER.
CHON DUK! ONE OF THE R.O.K AMMUNITION HANDLERS IS NAMED CHON DUK! AND THIS MORNING BEFORE TAKE-OFF, I SAW HIM WORKING ON MY SABRE!

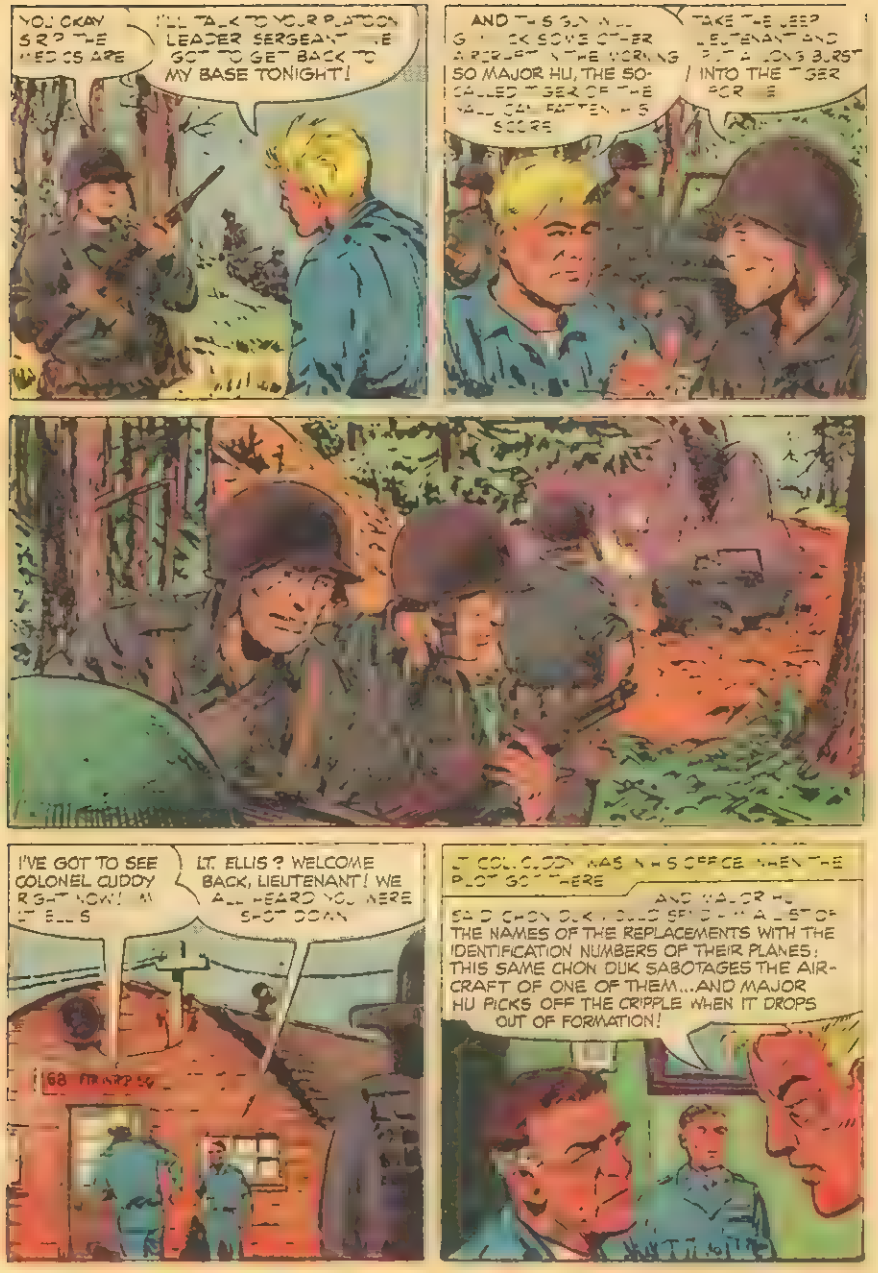
WE WILL NEVER SLEEP WHILE THE STUPID IMPERIALISTS ARE...
MAJOR HU, THE VILLAGE MAY BE ATTACKED BY AMERICAN MARINES! YOU HAD BETTER LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

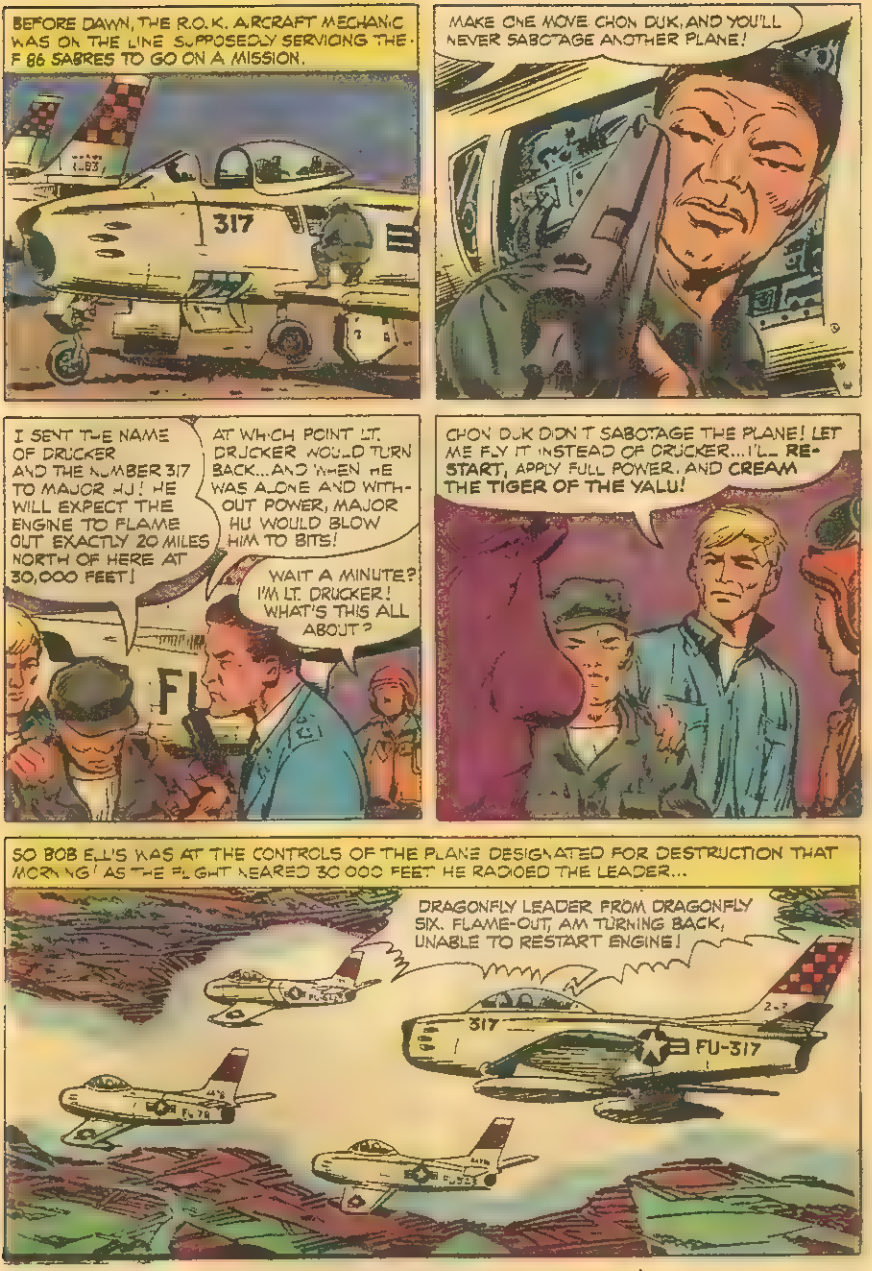
AN AD SKYRAIDER FROM A CARRIER OFFSHORE WAS FLYING A GROUND-SUPPORT MISSION! IT CAME IN LOW WITH 2.5 IN. ROCKETS... AND THE INEVITABLE AND TERRIBLY EFFECTIVE NAPALM BOMB!

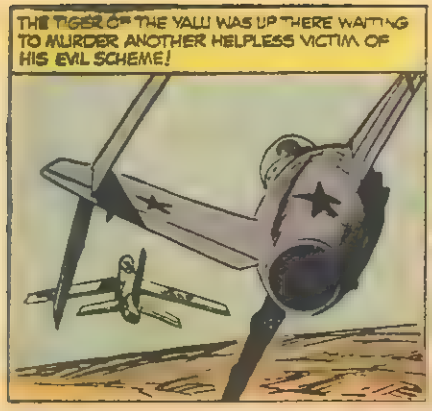


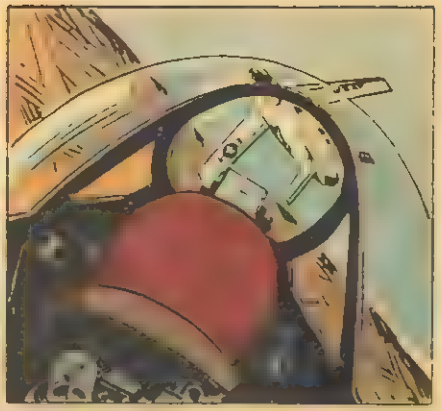
IT ELLIS DIDN'T STOP...HE'D RATHER DIE THAN BE RETAKEN! BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT EITHER! BECAUSE A MARINE ROSE OUT OF THE GROUND JUST AHEAD OF HIM AND SQUEEZED OFF THREE FAST ROUNDS!

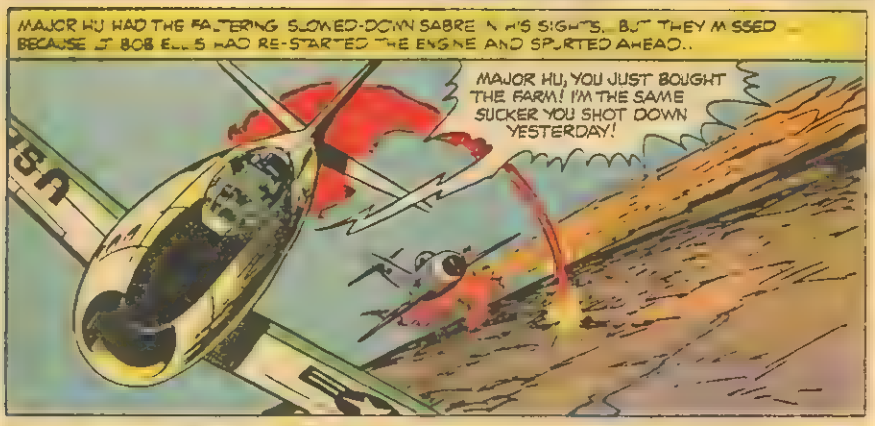


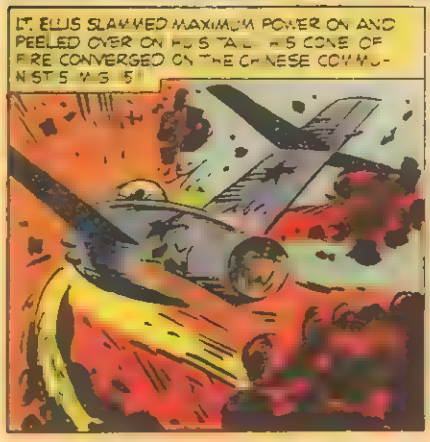

YOU OKAY SARGE? THE MEDICS ARE
I'LL TALK TO YOUR PLATOON LEADER SERGEANT... I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY BASE TONIGHT!
AND THIS SON OF A BITCH SHOT DOWN SOME OTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE MORNING SO MAJOR HU, THE SO-CALLED TIGER OF THE MIG CORPS PATTENS HIS SCORE
TAKE THE JEEP LIEUTENANT AND PUT A LONG BURST INTO THE TIGER FORCE
I'VE GOT TO SEE COLONEL CUDDY RIGHT NOW! M... IT ELLIS
LT. ELLIS? WELCOME BACK, LIEUTENANT! WE ALL HEARD YOU WERE SHOT DOWN
68 FIGHTER SQ
LT. COL. CUDDY WAS IN HIS OFFICE WHEN THE PLOT GOT THERE
AND MAJOR HU SAID CHON DUK COULD SPARE A LIST OF THE NAMES OF THE REPLACEMENTS WITH THE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OF THEIR PLANES: THIS SAME CHON DUK SABOTAGES THE AIRCRAFT OF ONE OF THEM...AND MAJOR HU PICKS OFF THE CRIPPLE WHEN IT DROPS OUT OF FORMATION!

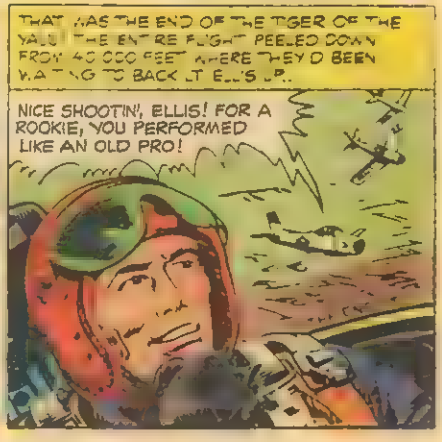

BEFORE DAWN, THE R.O.K. AIRCRAFT MECHANIC WAS ON THE LINE SUPPOSEDLY SERVICING THE F 86 SABRES TO GO ON A MISSION.
317
MAKE ONE MOVE CHON DUK, AND YOU'LL NEVER SABOTAGE ANOTHER PLANE!
I SENT THE NAME OF DRUCKER AND THE NUMBER 317 TO MAJOR HU! HE WILL EXPECT THE ENGINE TO FLAME OUT EXACTLY 20 MILES NORTH OF HERE AT 30,000 FEET!
AT WHICH POINT LT. DRUCKER WOULD TURN BACK... AND WHEN HE WAS ALONE AND WITHOUT POWER, MAJOR HU WOULD BLOW HIM TO BITS!
WAIT A MINUTE? I'M LT. DRUCKER! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
CHON DUK DIDN'T SABOTAGE THE PLANE! LET ME FLY IT INSTEAD OF DRUCKER... I'LL RE-START, APPLY FULL POWER, AND CREAM THE TIGER OF THE YALU!
SO BOB ELLIS WAS AT THE CONTROLS OF THE PLANE DESIGNATED FOR DESTRUCTION THAT MORNING! AS THE FLIGHT NEARED 30 000 FEET HE RADIOED THE LEADER...
DRAGONFLY LEADER FROM DRAGONFLY SIX. FLAME-OUT, AM TURNING BACK, UNABLE TO RESTART ENGINE!
317
FU-317


THE TIGER OF THE YALU WAS UP THERE WAITING TO MURDER ANOTHER HELPLESS VICTIM OF HIS EVIL SCHEME!




MAJOR HU HAD THE FALTERING SLOWED-DOWN SABRE IN HIS SIGHTS, BUT THEY MISSED BECAUSE LT. BOB ELLIS HAD RE-STARTED THE ENGINE AND SPURTED AHEAD..
MAJOR HU, YOU JUST BOUGHT THE FARM! I'M THE SAME SUCKER YOU SHOT DOWN YESTERDAY!


LT. ELLIS SLAMMED MAXIMUM POWER ON AND PEELED OVER ON HIS TAIL. HIS CONE OF FIRE CONVERGED ON THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS MIG 15!


THAT WAS THE END OF THE TIGER OF THE YALU! THE ENTIRE FLIGHT PEELED DOWN FROM 40,000 FEET WHERE THEY'D BEEN WAITING TO BACK LT. ELLIS UP..
NICE SHOOTIN', ELLIS! FOR A ROOKIE, YOU PERFORMED LIKE AN OLD PRO!

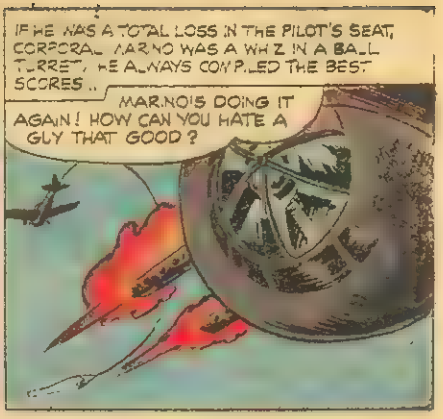
AIR WAR STORIES

GIFT FOR FLYING

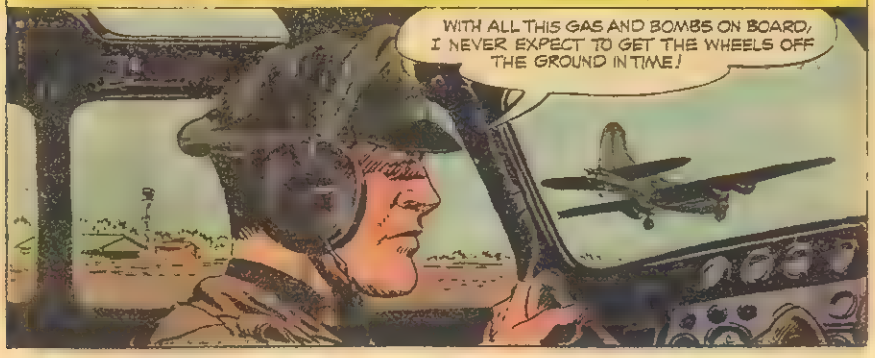
EVEN WHEN TERRY MARINO WAS BOUNCING HIS BT-11 HIGHER THAN A TRAINING PLANE HAD EVER BOUNCED OFF A RUNWAY BEFORE, HE STILL THOUGHT HE WAS A NATURAL-BORN PILOT: OH, HE MADE A LITTLE BOO-BOO ONCE IN AWHILE..BUT THIS ONE WAS ONE TOO MANY!
LIEUTENANT, I TOLD YOU TO WASH MARINO OUT LAST WEEK! THIS TIME, IT'S FINAL...IF HE'S STILL ALIVE WHEN HE GETS OUT OF THAT TRAINER, SHIP HIM OUT OF HERE!
I GUESS HE JUST AIN'T GOT THE TOUCH, CAPTAIN...
UNIT
9307
MARINO, DO YOUR GOVERNMENT AND YOURSELF A BIG FAVOR AND STAY ON THE GROUND! YOU JUST CAN'T FLY AN AIRPLANE!
ALL RIGHT, LIEUTENANT, I MADE A LITTLE MISTAKE! SO I'M WASHED OUT!
BUT DON'T TELL ME I CAN'T FLY! I'M A NATURAL, SEE! SOME DAY, I'LL PROVE I'M GOOD!

PFC MARINO SHIPPED OUT OF BASIC...AND WOUND UP IN A GUNNERY SCHOOL! HE TURNED OUT TO BE AS GOOD WITH A .50 CAL. MACHINE GUN AS HE THOUGHT HE WAS AT THE CONTROLS OF A PLANE!
FORTRESSES WERE ROLLING OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINES IN 1943 AND CPL. TERRY MARINO WAS A TRAINED TURRET GUNNER SO...
WELL, BIRDMEN...THERE S OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME!
BOY, WOULD I LOVE TO FLY THAT BABY!
HEY, SKIPPER, SOMETIME WHEN WE'RE FLYIN' SOMEWHERE, MAYBE YOU'D LET ME FLY HER A LITTLE? I CAN FLY...I WAS IN BASIC BUT I GOOFED! THE INSTRUCTOR WAS A...
YEAH MARINO...THE INSTRUCTORS WERE ALWAYS WRONG WHEN THEY WASHED ANYONE OUT WHEN I WAS IN BASIC TOO!
LAY OFF BOB ...I'LL GIVE YOU A SHOT AT IT SOME TIME, MARINO!
AND DURING LONG CROSS-COUNTRY TRAINING FLIGHTS, CAPTAIN ORR LET MARINO TRY HIS HAND AT FLYING...WITH NEARLY DISASTROUS RESULTS
MARINO--LOOK OUT!

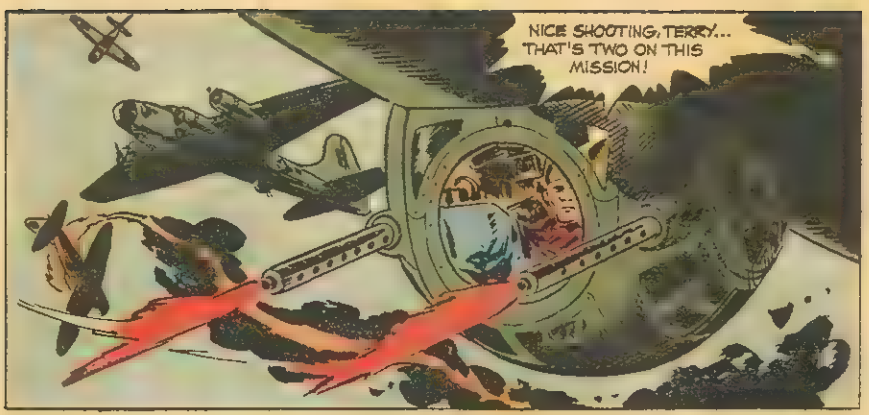
I- / SORRY SKIPPER W__ YOU LET ME TRY AGA / SOMETIME?
WE__ SEE TERRY. NOW, GET BACK TO YOUR TURRET . WE'RE GOING TO HAVE GUNNERY PRACTICE WITH A TOWED TARGET THIS MORNING.


IF HE WAS A TOTAL LOSS IN THE PILOT'S SEAT, CORPORAL MARNO WAS A WHIZ IN A BALL TURRET. HE ALWAYS COMPILED THE BEST SCORES..
MARNO IS DOING IT AGAIN! HOW CAN YOU HATE A GUY THAT GOOD?

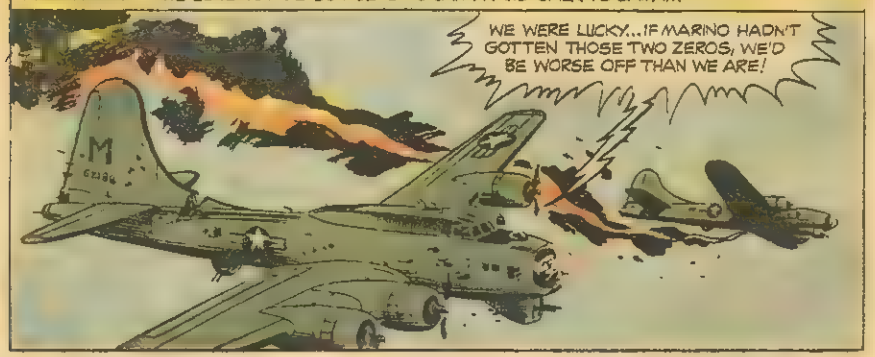
THE BOEING FORTRESS B-17 GAVE THE UNITED STATES THE RIGHT PLANE AT THE RIGHT TIME: IT HAD THE RANGE AND THE SPEED TO REACH JAPAN, DROP THE BOMBLOADS, AND MAKE IT BACK TO THE FIELDS ON TINIAN AND SAIPAN.. IF **THEY WERE VERY, VERY LUCKY!**



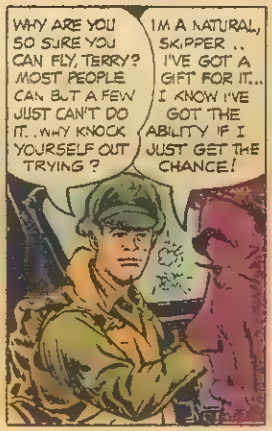
THE FORTRESSES FLEW EVERY DAY THAT THE WEATHER PERMITTED! THEY BROUGHT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TO THE JAPANESE HOMELAND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE DOOLITTLE'S RAID...

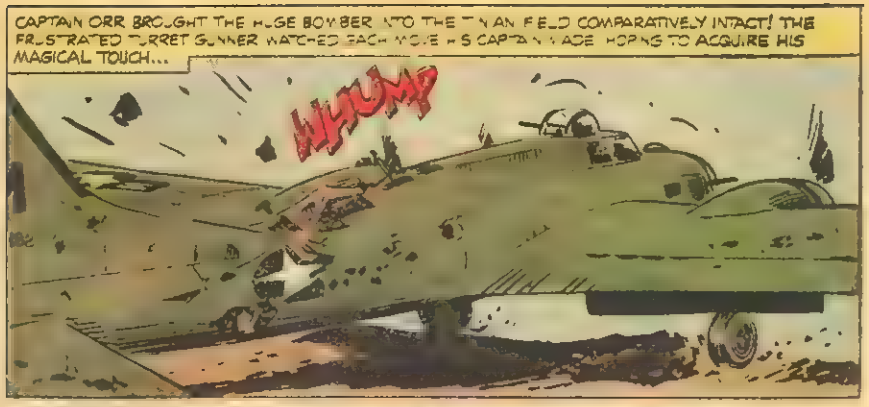


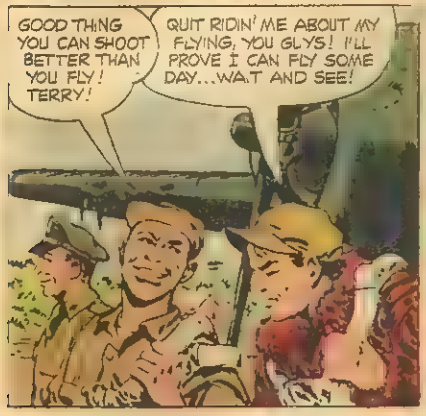
THE B-17S TOOK A TERRIFIC POUNDING FROM THE JAPANESE FIGHTERS OVER THE HOME ISLANDS .. IN THE DAYS BEFORE IWO JIMA WAS CAPTURED, WE HAD NO FIGHTERS WITH SUFFICIENT RANGE TO ACCOMPANY THE LONG-RANGE BOMBERS TO JAPAN AND BACK TO SAIPAN!



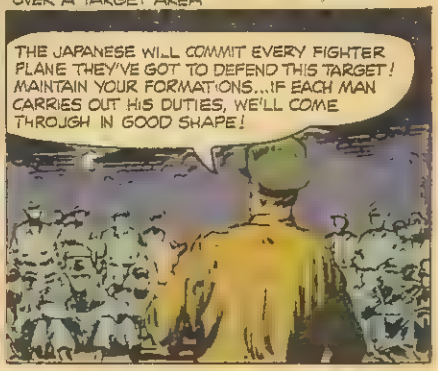
THAT'S FOUR ZEROS FOR YOU IN THREE MISSIONS, TERRY! I'M GOING TO PUT YOU IN FOR ANOTHER DECORATION!
THANKS, SKIPPER... BUT I'D SWAP THAT MEDAL FOR SOME STICK TIME!


WHY ARE YOU SO SURE YOU CAN FLY, TERRY? MOST PEOPLE CAN BUT A FEW JUST CAN'T DO IT. WHY KNOCK YOURSELF OUT TRYING ?
I'M A NATURAL, SKIPPER .. I'VE GOT A GIFT FOR IT... I KNOW I'VE GOT THE ABILITY IF I JUST GET THE CHANCE!

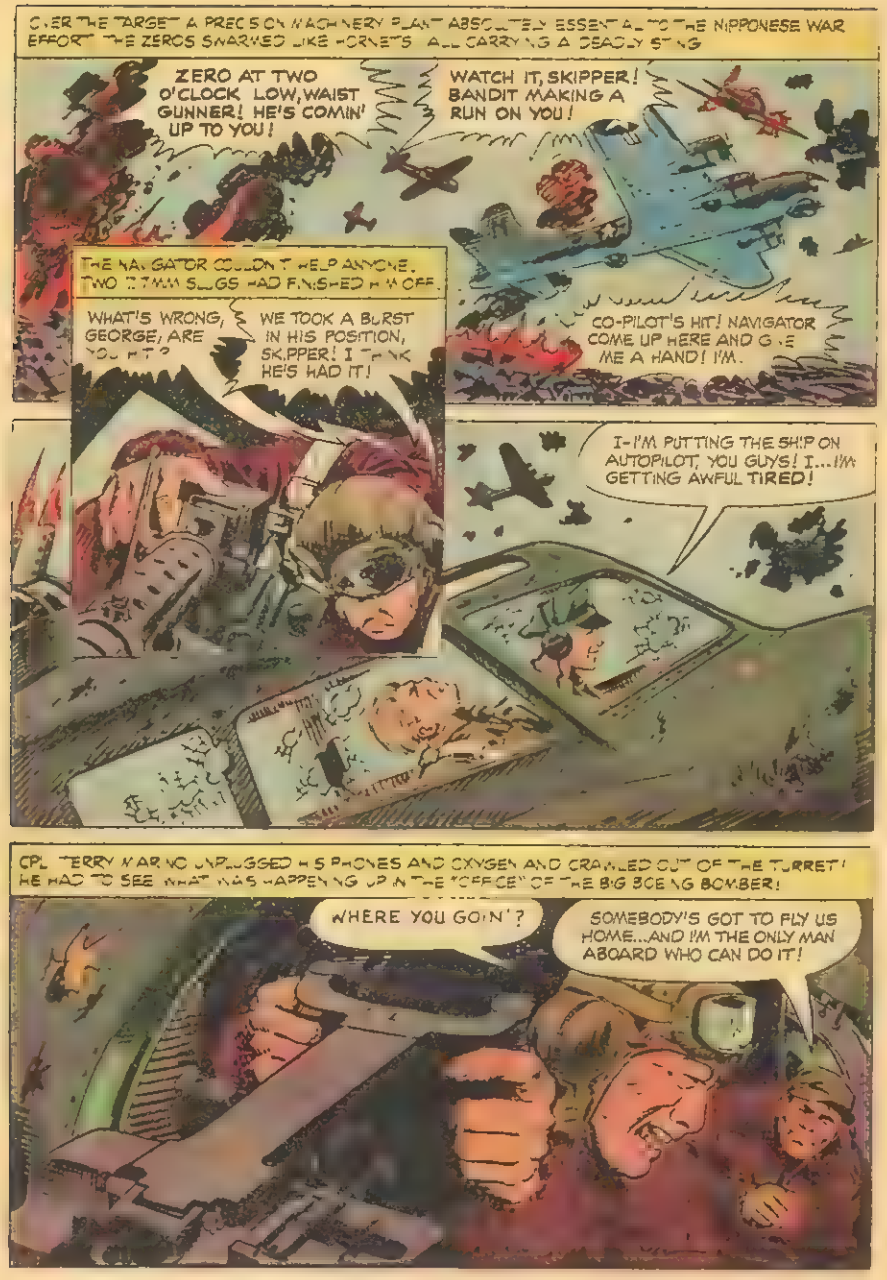

CAPTAIN ORR BROUGHT THE HUGE BOMBER INTO THE TINIAN FIELD COMPARATIVELY INTACT! THE FRUSTRATED TURRET GUNNER WATCHED EACH MOVE HIS CAPTAIN MADE HOPING TO ACQUIRE HIS MAGICAL TOUCH...
WHUMP


GOOD THING YOU CAN SHOOT BETTER THAN YOU FLY! TERRY!
QUIT RIDIN' ME ABOUT MY FLYING, YOU GLYS! I'LL PROVE I CAN FLY SOME DAY...WAIT AND SEE!

FOUR DAYS LATER, THERE WAS GOOD WEATHER OVER A TARGET AREA


THE JAPANESE WILL COMMIT EVERY FIGHTER PLANE THEY'VE GOT TO DEFEND THIS TARGET! MAINTAIN YOUR FORMATIONS...IF EACH MAN CARRIES OUT HIS DUTIES, WE'LL COME THROUGH IN GOOD SHAPE!

PLEASE, SKIPPER? CAN'T I SIT IN FOR LT. HARGOOD FLYING TOWARD THE TARGET? IT'LL GIVE YOU GUYS A CHANCE TO REST A LITTLE!
IF YOU LET HIM FLY, CAPTAIN, I WON'T REST...I'LL HAVE A NERVOUS BREAK-DOWN!


OVER THE TARGET A PRECISION MACHINERY PLANT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE NIPPONESE WAR EFFORT THE ZEROS SWARMED LIKE HORNETS ALL CARRYING A DEADLY STING
ZERO AT TWO O'CLOCK LOW, WAIST GUNNER! HE'S COMIN' UP TO YOU!
WATCH IT, SKIPPER! BANDIT MAKING A RUN ON YOU!
THE NAVIGATOR COULDN'T HELP ANYONE. TWO 7.7MM SLUGS HAD FINISHED HIM OFF.
WHAT'S WRONG, GEORGE, ARE YOU HIT?
WE TOOK A BURST IN HIS POSITION, SKIPPER! I THINK HE'S HAD IT!
CO-PILOT'S HIT! NAVIGATOR COME UP HERE AND GIVE ME A HAND! I'M...
I-I'M PUTTING THE SHIP ON AUTOPILOT, YOU GUYS! I...I'M GETTING AWFUL TIRED!
CPL. TERRY MARINO UNPLUGGED HIS PHONES AND OXYGEN AND CRAWLED OUT OF THE TURRET! HE HAD TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING UP IN THE "OFFICE" OF THE BIG BOEING BOMBER!
WHERE YOU GOIN'?
SOMEBODY'S GOT TO FLY US HOME...AND I'M THE ONLY MAN ABOARD WHO CAN DO IT!

CAPTAIN'S STILL ALIVE...CO-PILOT'S IN BAD SHAPE! I'LL MOVE THE LIEUTENANT...HE'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE LAYIN' FLAT AND ONE OF THE OTHERS CAN GIVE HIM AID!
REDCAT 4 FROM REDCAT LEADER! CHANGE COURSE AND REJOIN THE FORMATION. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, REDCAT 4 ?
THE CAPTAIN AND CO-PILOT ARE HIT, THE NAVIGATOR IS DEAD, AND I'M FLYIN' THIS BIRD! I'LL CATCH UP, REDCAT LEADER!
SKIPPER, YOU'RE IN A DIVE! SKIPPER, ARE YOU FLYIN' THIS BUGGY ?
I AM, SERGEANT... DON'T WORRY, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOIN' !
MARINO'S RAGGED FLYING PROBABLY SAVED THE B-17! THE JAP FIGHTER PILOTS SWARMED AROUND THE BIG CRIPPLE...BUT THE ERRATIC COURSE OF THE BOEING BOMBER KEPT THEM FROM GETTING IN A GOOD BURST!
TAKE IT EASY, HOTSHOT... THIS AIN'T NO FIGHTER PLANE YOU'RE JOCKEYIN' AROUND!

HE WAS ALL THUMBS...HIS "NATURAL GIFT FOR FLYING" SEEMED TO HAVE VANISHED...

WE'RE GOIN' DOWN, YOU JERK! GET THIS CRATE RIGHTSIDE UP!

MARINO KEPT WITH IT! HE FOUGHT BACK THE PANIC, LOOKING PLEADINGLY AT THE SKIPPER...BUT IF CAPT. ORR WAS STILL ALIVE, HE CERTAINLY WASN'T ABLE TO TALK! STILL...MARINO **THOUGHT** HE HEARD THE PLANE COMMANDER'S WORDS AGAIN...

CENTER THE BALL...SKIDDING A LITTLE...GIVE IT SOME LEFT RUDDER...NOT TOO MUCH! I CAN ALMOST HEAR HIS VOICE TELLIN' ME THE THINGS I GOT TO DO!

CONTROL TOWER, THIS IS REDCAT 4! I...I'M NOT A PILOT BUT I'M GOING TO TRY TO LAND! REQUEST CLEARANCE FOR LONGEST RUNWAY YOU HAVE OPEN!

WHEN CPL. MARINO RADIOED IN FOR CLEARANCE, EVERY CRASHWAGON ON TINIAN HEADED FOR THE LONG EAST-WEST RUNWAY! A B-17 WASN'T THE KIND OF AIRPLANE LEARNERS SET DOWN SUCCESSFULLY...

CAN I OPEN MY EYES NOW?

HE DID IT! HE ALWAYS SAID HE HAD A NATURAL GIFT FOR FLYING!

BAM THUD BAM

AND LATER, WHEN CAPTAIN ORR REGAINED CONSIOUSNESS, HE THANKED HIS TURRET GUNNER AND ASKED HIM IF HE'D LIKE ANOTHER CHANCE AT FLIGHT TRAINING...

FUNNY ABOUT THAT, SKIPPER. I...I DON'T WANT TO FLY AS MUCH NOW AS I DID BEFORE! I DID IT ONCE...I'LL ALWAYS HAVE THAT TO REMEMBER... BUT I DON'T THINK I WANT TO TRY IT AGAIN!

AIR WAR
STORIES
THE ARCTIC HAS LONG BEEN THE NEMESIS OF EVEN THE HARDIEST EXPLORER. IT HAS SERVED AS AN IMPENETRABLE SEPARATION BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS.
BUT LONG-RANGE AIRCRAFT HAVE ELIMINATED THAT OBSTACLE SO THAT AMERICA IS NOW VULNERABLE TO QUICK AND SUDDEN ATTACK FROM THE AIR. HOWEVER, THE SAME AIR WAR ADVANTAGES WHICH HAVE ACCRUED TO ANY EASTERN ENEMY HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO US...
STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
U.S
5084
OUR AIR FORCE IS NOW CONSTANTLY PATROLLING THE ARCTIC REGIONS.
THE USE OF POLAR AIR ROUTES HAS GREATLY NARROWED THE GAPS BETWEEN NATIONS AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE WORLD, AND THESE ROUTES CAN AND MUST BE PROTECTED...

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"My Xmas Packs sold so fast I couldn't believe it. Had them all sold in an hour."
Cathy Copple, N. C.

"I thought they sold fast before, but this year is unbelievable. Rush me more."
Donald Bradford, Me.

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